

FRONT & CENTER

Providing News to Our Veterans

October 2013

FIRST VETERANS TREATMENT COURT GRADUATE

Last fall the official Memo of Understanding (MOU) to begin a new Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) in Butler County was signed, and this month the first graduating class will gather to celebrate their achievements while the MOU is renewed.

U.S. Army Veteran Bryan Gressly was the first Veteran to participate in Butler's new VTC. He is one of four attending the upcoming VTC graduation. While in the Army, Bryan deployed to Iraq for 14 months. Upon being discharged, he struggled with substance abuse for years before finding help through VA Butler's Domiciliary and the Veterans Treatment Court.

"Everything about Veterans Treatment Court is helpful. When you first start, you understand that you made the mistakes and you are held accountable for what you did wrong. They don't downsize what you did, but they recognize that you are a Veteran and they are willing to help you."

The goal of Veterans Treatment Court is to divert those with mental health issues and

homelessness from the traditional justice system and to give them treatment and tools for rehabilitation and readjustment. While Veterans Treatment Court allows the Veteran to remain in the community while undergoing treatment, a judge regularly checks on the Veteran's progress.

"It's a very structured program, but they provide you with everything you need to succeed – from support in the court room and assigning you mentors, to the VA counseling/treatment," said Bryan. "As long as you are willing to accept that you need help and there are things you need to face, they will do anything they can to support you and help you move forward with your life."

Though Bryan graduates this month, he will continue reporting to the court, along with attending group sessions and after-care. He also is enrolled at Butler County Community College where he is pursuing his interest in physical therapy (PT). He hopes to attend



graduate school for PT at Slippery Rock University in the future.

"Veterans Treatment Court is a blessing. It's demanding, but it's an opportunity I'm grateful to receive." To learn more about VTC, visit www.justiceforvets.org.

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—U.S. Army Veteran Bryan Gressly

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...OCTOBER

- 2** Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American Supreme Court justice, is sworn in (1967)
- 4** Orville Wright pilots the first flight longer than 30 minutes (1905)
- 10** The U.S. Naval Academy is founded at Annapolis, Md. (1845)
- 19** Major General Lord Charles Cornwallis surrenders to George Washington and Count de Rochambeau at Yorktown, Va. ending the Revolutionary War (1781)
- 22** The first successful parachute descent is made by Andre-Jacques Garnerin, who jumps 2,200 feet from a balloon over Paris (1797)
- 23** The Nobel Prize for Medicine is awarded to microbiologist Selmart A. Waksman for his discovery of an effective treatment for tuberculosis (1952)
- 31** After 14 years, the Mount Rushmore National Memorial is completed (1941)



MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK IS OCTOBER 6-12, 2013

One in four American adults experiences a mental health problem in any given year. Recovery is possible, and treatment is available. VA Butler Healthcare is here to help. Learn more by calling 800-362-8262, ext. 5039 or visiting www.butler.va.gov/services/Behavioral_Health.asp.

OCTOBER 2013 FLU CLINICS AND HEALTH FAIRS

The single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year. VA Butler Healthcare is offering flu vaccination clinics to Veterans at the main campus and other community locations this month. For more information, call 724-285-2223 or visit www.butler.va.gov/calendar.asp.

October 1 • 10am-2pm
Latin American Club
1218 3rd Avenue, Ford City

October 3 • 10am-2pm
VFW#894, 894 Veterans Lane,
Natrona Heights

October 5 • 10am-2pm
Lawrence Co. VA Outpatient Clinic
Ridgewood Professional Centre
1750 New Butler Road, New Castle

October 9 • 4:30pm-6pm (flu clinic only)
VA Butler Primary Care
325 New Castle Road, Butler

October 10 • 10am-2pm
Clarion County VA Outpatient Clinic
AC Valley Medical Center
855 Route 58, Foxburg

October 11 • 10:30am-1pm
Annual Senior Health Fair
Hempfield Station One Banquet Center
28 6th Avenue, Greenville

October 12 • 8am-12pm (flu clinic only)
VA Butler Primary Care
325 New Castle Road, Butler

October 15 • 10am-2pm
Allegheny Hills Retirement Residence
421 Kelly's Way, East Brady

October 16 • 3-7pm
VFW#12, 179 Virginia Avenue, Rochester

October 17 • 7am-12pm
VA Butler Healthcare Auditorium
325 New Castle Road, Butler

October 22 • 10am-2pm
VFW #519, 220 Blair Street, Grove City

October 24 • 10am-2pm
VFW #7505, 331 Mars-Valencia Road,
Mars

October 26 • 10am-2pm
Michael A. Marzano VA Outpatient Clinic
295 N. Kerrwood Dr., Ste. 110, Hermitage

October 29 • 10:30am-1pm
Belmont Complex
415 Butler Road, Kittanning



VA Butler Healthcare wants YOU to stay safe and healthy this Halloween, and all season long. Don't be tricked this Halloween. Make healthy lifestyle decisions and safe choices for you and your family. For more information visit www.prevention.va.gov.

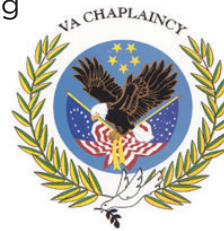
PASTORAL CARE WEEK IS OCTOBER 20-26, 2013

Celebrating All Who Provide Spiritual Counseling

VA Butler Healthcare's Pastoral Care Department provides emotional and spiritual support to our Veterans and their families. Veterans in need of physical, emotional or spiritual support are treated with compassionate, non-judgmental and non-coercive care. We are here to help Veterans discover or strengthen their spiritual identity on their journey through a medical, physical or mental crisis.

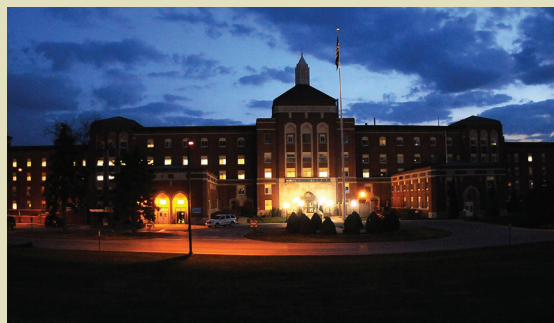
VA Butler Healthcare's chaplains are dedicated to serving our Veterans. To learn more, contact VA Butler's chief chaplain at 800-362-8262, ext. 5009, visit www.butler.va.gov/services/Pastoral_Care.asp, or check out the Spirituality Center in My HealthVet – www.myhealth.va.gov.

We want to hear from you! Email amanda.kurtz2@va.gov or lauren.heiger@va.gov to share your story with us!



EVENTS

- October Podcast • Caregiver Support**
- 3 Thursday, October 3 • 12pm
butler.va.gov/news/MediaCenter.asp
- Walk with a Veteran for Cancer Awareness**
- 12 Saturday, October 12 • 1-3pm
VA Butler Healthcare
- Healthy Living Recognition Event**
- 15 Tuesday, October 15 • 1-3pm
VA Butler Auditorium
- Lawrence County Veterans Stand Down**
- 19 Saturday, October 19 • 10am-3pm
Cascade Park Pavilion, New Castle



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800.362.8262
724.287.4781

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